

Declaration of Graham Smith
Exhibit 4

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Memorandum

To: Marie Conner,
Endoscopy Division,
Smith & Nephew, Inc.

Date: 1st May 2001.


From: Malcolm Wright.

Subject: Screw - threaded Suture Anchors.

I am pleased to enclose a copy of our Patent Search Report No. 2001031 that is concerned with screw-threaded suture anchors. The search did not appear to identify any patents or patent applications that disclosed or suggested a suture anchor having the features of that illustrated in the instructing memorandum. The patents included in the search report are meant to show individual features like a screw - threaded anchor, an anchor with an internal passage way through which the suture loop passes, a suture lock or an anchor pin but none show a combination of all these features. As you are aware there are hundreds of patents on suture anchors but I have concentrated on those with screw threads and not included those with barbs (Ethicon-Mitek - type) or those with a T-shaped end (Hayhurst -type).

I have included United States Patent No. 5891168 because it has a method claim for multiple anchors that appears to have a broad scope.

Best Regards.


Malcolm Wright.

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